

JAPAN WANTS TO FIGHT

War Sprit Is High and Can Scarcely Be Controlled

Little Brown Men Will Put Up a Hard Scrap for the Muscovites of the North

(Tacoma Ledger.)

"The war spirit runs high in Japan; the populace is thirsty for strife, and I was told by men prominent in the business and professional affairs of the country that Marquis Ito, the distinguished statesman and diplomat who visited Puget sound less than two years ago, is in danger of assassination owing to his declared policy in favor of peace rather than a conflict that the conservative element believes

would prove disastrous to the nation. The ministry and its advisers undoubtedly prefer peace, but they are being goaded on to war by the radicals who would rather fight than eat, so bitter is their hatred of Russia and Russians.

The opinion quoted above is that expressed in an interview by Colonel E. W. Foster, father of Beale A. and E. Walker Foster, Jr., of Tacoma, who has just returned from an extended sojourn in the land of the chrysanthemum and "little brown men." Colonel Foster was a member of the party that left Tacoma last October for the flowery kingdom, in which were Mrs. A. G. Foster, Miss Griggs, Miss Gallup and Mrs. Maxfield. The ladies returned home early in December, but Colonel Foster remained abroad in order to visit places not included in the itinerary of the party. He visited the extreme northern part of the empire, penetrated the famous forests and inspected the wonderful mines of the country, and was brought into personal contact with men high in the councils of the government.

Business Interests Suffering.

There is strong feeling and a growing sentiment in favor of war throughout the empire, says Colonel Foster, due to the encroachments of Russia on territory deemed sacred by the Japs and the fear that if the "boar that

walks like a man" is given an inch of latitude it will take a mile of leeway.

"The business men of Japan are suffering a heavy loss as a result of the unsettled condition of things throughout the empire, and though all realize that single handed Japan cannot harm Russia, they believe that war would serve to dissipate the uneasiness that prevails at the present time, and an outbreak of hostilities would not be received with a spirit of deep regret by the business interests," said he. "They look for support from China, believing that the celestial kingdom will have to be involved in order to protect itself against Russian interference, and they look for support, moral and otherwise, from European nations."

The procrastination of the Russian government in giving a definite reply to the Japanese note is causing considerable impatience in Japan, says Colonel Foster. The people on the street talk of nothing but war, and all are ready to shoulder arms and man ships to support the emperor.

"In writing an estimate of the Japanese people, patriotism is one of their attributes that must receive particular mention," said Colonel Foster. "They idolize the emperor and swear by him. The Japanese are an orderly, well disciplined people. There is very little criminality about them, and they

are good-natured, happy-dispositioned people. They are industrious and enterprising. The men make good soldiers, the women good wives and mothers. The soldiers can endure great hardships; they are used to marching great stretches, doing little or no riding, which makes them admirable men on the field or in the trenches.

Japs Imitate European Ways.

"The people imitate European ways, often making amusingly awkward efforts in contrast to the real thing. English is the language spoken. It is not necessary for the foreigner to learn to speak Japanese, as in even the remote districts somebody will be found who understands our language sufficiently well to be understood," said the colonel. "The Japanese hotels are splendid institutions, in management and appearance, and the cities are splendid examples of modern municipal arrangement. I found the people courteous and obliging, particularly so to Americans, for whom they entertain more than ordinary respect. They feel the people of the United States understand them and are more in sympathy with them than the people of any other foreign country, and they make it a point to express and make manifest their appreciation in a thousand different ways."

Colonel Foster said that the war spirit is reflecting in the patriotic songs sung by the people and the Gelash girls. They improvise American patriotic airs, says the colonel, and adapt them to the spirit that is rampant throughout the empire, so that it is not uncommon to hear a melody that is a cross between "Marching Through Georgia" and the "Star Spangled Banner" being sung in a veritable babble of words of which "hi-yi-yi" or something like that is the popular refrain.

War Talk Checked Prosperity.

"Prior to the preparations for war, business in Japan was good, and prosperity prevailed throughout the land. The crops were remarkably excellent, and splendid prices were obtained for grain and produce and manufactured articles of all kinds. Despite the heavy taxation that is imposed upon the people there was an air of plenty, I was told, and prospects for a continuation of the prosperity were supposed to be good. The probability of war changed everything, however, and everybody, more or less, has suffered as a consequence," said Colonel Foster. He spoke enthusiastically of the scenery, the flowers, the sacred temples and ancient castles, and the people, describing the trip as a novel and pleasant experience.

During his sojourn in Japan Colonel Foster met W. H. Remington many times, and visited several places of interest with him, including the mines and forests on the northern end of the island. He says that Mr. Remington is one of the most popular foreigners who ever visited that country in search of business investments. The natives pay great deference to him, treating him as if he were a man backed by a Monte Cristo.

Immense Undeveloped Industries.

"If there is one thing that the Japs need it's money," said the colonel, "and if they get hold of a man who represents capital they are going to keep him there if it takes all summer. The undeveloped industries of the empire are immense, and they are anxious to attract capital to their country."

The fame of Tacoma as a city of homes and also of commercial and industrial enterprise was advertised by the party wherever it went, especially the ladies, remarked Colonel Foster, and the little brown men learned to pronounce the name of this city as easily as their province Tokio.

Colonel Foster sailed from Yokohama on Christmas day, arriving at Vancouver on Tuesday. He will leave for Minneapolis next week, and after a visit with friends there he will proceed to Washington, D. C., where he has made his home for the past four years. He says that Tacoma is his real home, and he will be back again in a few months.

Bed Time

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JOURNAL DIAMOND UNKNOWN NUMBER GUESSING CONTEST

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Beautiful First Water Stone Set in a Tiffany Gold Ring Given Away as An Expression of Good Will Toward Subscribers

Your Choice of 975 Numbers, Any One of Which May Be the Unknown Number That Gets the Glittering Diamond ---No Possibility of Any Crooked Work.

The Journal has placed an order through the C. H. Hings jewelry house for a \$150 diamond of the finest water, to be given away to subscribers to Daily or Weekly Journal—for each dollar paid the subscriber is to have one guess at an unknown number of three figures, that will be placed in a sealed envelope. This is not a drawing, lottery, or gift enterprise of any kind—but a mere innocent, harmless guessing contest that will make some one richer by a present of a fine \$150 diamond set in a Tiffany gold ring.

How to Participate.

For each receipt of one dollar for the Daily or Weekly Journal, to any address, the person to whom the receipt is issued, will be given an opportunity, absolutely without cost, to have a guess at the unknown number, and the person or persons guessing nearest that number will receive as a present and without any compensation whatever, and merely as an expression of good will on the part of The Journal toward its subscribers, the \$150 diamond Tiffany ring advertised in this paper and on exhibition at the jewelry store of C. H. Hings, 55 State street, Salem, Oregon. The party paying one dollar or more shall receive a receipt for each dollar paid, and have the opportunity to guess a different number for each such receipt held. No commission is allowed to any agent or solicitor for securing subscribers, and the person so subscribing does it with the understanding that the Daily or Weekly Journal is accepted as payment in full for the money paid.

Unknown Number—How Prepared. The unknown number that is to be guessed was made up in the following manner. The ten numbers from

nought to nine were put on separate slips of paper and folded so as to be unseen, and a committee of subscribers was asked to conduct the assembling of the unknown number. This unknown number was formed at The Journal office on Monday, January 11, 1904, in the following manner: The ten numbers from naught to nine, inclusive, on separate slips of paper, in small sealed envelopes were placed in a box, shaken, and a blindfolded person in the presence of the committee drew out three of these ten numbers, marking the first one, the second two and the third three in figures, and they were then placed in a large envelope, sealed up and placed with the diamond on exhibition in the jewelry store show window each day during the guessing contest, and will not be opened until the contest is closed, when the diamond will be given to the nearest guesser. The unknown number will be formed by putting together the three numbers in the order as marked, one, two, three, on the envelopes in which they are contained. The unknown number will not be assembled until the guessing contest is completed, and publicly announced to subscribers.

Limited Competition.

The number of receipts issued in this contest will be limited to the number of guesses possible in the range of the numbers between 012 and 987, as the unknown number must be composed of a figure within those limits. The unknown number cannot be less than 012 nor more than 987. To be a perfectly harmless and innocent and amusing guessing contest the number to be guessed at must be and remain absolutely unknown. There must be no chance

for any crooked work on the part of The Journal publishers, of the jeweler furnishing the diamond, nor on the part of any subscriber. The receipts for this guessing contest will be numbered in duplicate, but the stub will be only for the purpose of identifying the subscriber who is the successful guesser—each subscriber writing the guess number on the back of his receipt—each one making his or her own guess at the unknown number. As soon as the receipts are all sold the guessing contest will be over and the nearest number awarded the diamond.

How the Guesses Are Made.

On securing a receipt for one dollar or more, the person wishing to guess will write his guess between the above numbers on the back of the receipt in ink or indelible pencil, writing only one guess on each receipt, and depositing the same in the soldered tin box provided at The Journal office for that purpose. Subscribers out of town will be allowed to make their guess in the same manner. Receipts will be mailed them, and they can return the same, with their guess written on the back, in a sealed envelope plainly marked "Journal Diamond Guessing Contest," and they will be deposited in the box. The soldered tin box will not be cut open until all the receipts in the guessing contest are sold—975 receipts in all.

Receipts Now Ready.

Subscribers can now get their receipts and begin making guesses to secure the \$150 diamond. Subscribers by mail and at Journal special delivery stations in the suburbs of Greater Salem will all be given the same opportunity to guess.